A very sour Friday after school (Friday January 29th, 2016)

Characters

Narrator – Kemi Majeks (1981-11-08 in Coventry, Warwickshire, West Midlands) (34 years 2 months)

Pastor Azimwali "Azim" Ketaki (Laya, Niya and Anukampa's father) (1964-06-12 in Chandigarh, Haryana, India) (cares a lot for his sons at home and daughter in university, speaks in a deep voice, warm-hearted and a good middle-aged Pastor – wears a grey winter coat, a cream jumper, a white light blue long sleeved formal shirt, cream trousers, grey socks and black shoes, wears a pale blue analogue watch on his right hand, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and short, straight black hair and a long black beard) (51 years 7 months)

Deaconess Tazim Ketaki (Laya, Niya and Anukampa's mother) (1966-05-29 in Patna, Bihar, India) (helps her younger son as he has special needs, a good middle-aged deaconess, likes it when her sons help her and doesn't tolerate nonsense – wears a black waterproof coat, a yellow cardigan, a purple long sleeved shirt, blue jeans and indigo loafers, wears a purple analogue watch on her left wrist, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and long wavy black hair down, she wears a pair of big dark brown rectangular rimmed glasses) (49 years 8 months)

Dad (Isayu Adhikari – Arimyriah and Arigbeniri's father) (Christmas Day 1970 in New Delhi, India) (oldest of the family, responsible, paternal and firm but loving – wears an orange Polo Ralph Lauren short sleeved shirt, blue jeans and navy trainers, wears a brown analogue watch on his right hand, has dark brown skin, brown eyes and is almost bald) (45 years 1 month)

Mum (Taryn Adhikari – Arimyriah and Arigbeniri's mother) (1976-09-12 in Agra, India) (loving, kind, fluent in English and Hindi and must discipline her children at times – wears a wine winter coat, a plum bobble hat, a plum scarf, plum mittens, a dark blue long-sleeved dress, light blue tights and black flat shoes and silver stud earrings on her earlobes, has olive skin, brown eyes, has black braided hair curled at the bottom in two French plaits) (39 years 4 months)

Rochelle (Taylor and Flora's mother) (1981-03-18 in Wellington, New Zealand) (uses New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) to Flora when she loses her voice, speaks English and Māori to the children, almost always has her dirty blonde hair in low bunches and rarely loses her temper – wears a purple winter coat, a violet bobble hat, a violet scarf, violet gloves, a long sleeved hot pink shirt, blue jeans and pink loafers, wears a purple analogue watch on her left hand, has fair skin, blue eyes and long straight dirty blonde hair in low pigtails) (34 years 10 months)

Mr Robert Carter Jr. (Taylor and Flora's stepfather) (1981-09-20 in Edgware, Barnet, North London) (loving, helpful, funny and rarely gets infuriated – wears a black winter coat, a black Polo Ralph Lauren jumper, a light blue long sleeved formal shirt, a royal blue tie, blue socks and black shoes, wears a royal blue smart watch on his right hand, has fair skin, blue eyes, a dark brown sideways fringe and wears small black rectangular-rimmed glasses) (34 years 4 months)

Derek (Taxi driver) (1983-11-23 in Belfast, Northern Ireland) (personality not given as he is a minor character – wears an orange waterproof coat, a white formal long sleeved shirt, a red tie, black trousers and black shoes and has dark brown eyes, fair skin and short straight dark brown hair) (32 years 2 months)

Niya (Anukampa's older brother) (1997-11-18 in Camberwell, Southwark, South London) (a good young adult, responsible, looks after his autistic brother well and is a talented drummer – wears a black sleeveless jacket, a lime green long sleeved shirt, khaki trousers and green loafers, wears a white digital watch on his right wrist, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and short straight dark brown hair) (18 years 2 months)

Anukampa (Niya's younger brother) (2004-09-07 in Croydon, Croydon, South London) (a severely autistic pre-teen, doesn't say much words at all, loves his older brother Niya and uses Makaton to sign – wears a dark blue winter coat, a short sleeved light blue shirt, denim shorts, white long socks and black shoes, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and short straight dark brown hair) (11 years 4 months)
Taylor (2004-11-20 in Christchurch, New Zealand – Flora's older brother) (bubbly, cheerful, sweet but can be quite naughty and throw temper tantrums when he does not get what he wants – has short, straight strawberry blonde hair, fair skin, blue eyes and wears a pair of contact lenses on his eyes and wears a navy waterproof coat, a royal blue bobble hat, a royal blue scarf and royal blue gloves, a burgundy school jumper, a traditional burgundy tie with white stripes, a white long-sleeved formal shirt, grey trousers, grey socks and black shoes then a dark blue long sleeved shirt, blue jeans, light blue socks and dark blue trainers, wears a sky-blue analogue watch on his right hand) (11 years 2 months)
Flora (2005-11-07 in Christchurch, New Zealand – Taylor's younger sister) (a not-so-feminine girl, active, understands New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) so uses it whenever she loses her voice and alternates between black rectangular-rimmed glasses and contact lenses to help her see things that are close to her as she is long-sighted – has long, straight strawberry blonde hair in a tight bun, fair skin and blue eyes and wears a pair of black medium-sized rectangular-rimmed glasses, not to mention a gold hairband with a bow on the left and wears a mustard winter coat, an orange bobble hat, an orange scarf, orange gloves a burgundy school cardigan, a white long-sleeved formal shirt, a traditional burgundy and white striped tie, grey school trousers, white socks and black loafers then an orange long sleeved shirt, blue dungarees with trousers under and silver loafers, she wears a pink digital watch watch on her left wrist and a pair of gold heart earrings on her earlobes) (10 years 2 months)
Matthew (2006-10-02 in Watford, Hertfordshire, East of England – a classmate of Taylor, Arimyriah and Flora) (personality not given as he is a minor character – has black afro hair, dark brown skin and brown eyes and wears an grey waterproof coat, a burgundy school jumper, a traditional burgundy tie with white stripes, a white long-sleeved formal shirt, grey trousers, grey socks and black shoes) (9 years 3 months)
Arimyriah (2006-10-17 in Locksbottom, Bromley, South-East London – Arigbeniri's older sister) (creative, likes to produce different foods, likes the Greater London region and its buses with the bright red livery a lot but can be quite naughty and throw tantrums when she does not get her way – has black braided hair curled at the bottom in a messy ponytail, copper skin and brown eyes and wears a brown winter coat, a pink bobble hat, a pink scarf, pink gloves, a burgundy school cardigan, a white short-sleeved polo shirt, a grey skirt, grey tights and black school shoes then a light pink long sleeved shirt with a rabbit on it, blue jeans, pink socks and pink trainers, she wears a pair of silver heart-shaped earrings on her earlobes) (9 years 3 months)
Arigbeniri (2008-01-05 in Locksbottom, Bromley, South-East London – Arimyriah's younger brother) (happy, resourceful, respectful but can be a bit mischievous – has short curly black hair, copper skin and brown eyes and wears a pair of small black rectangular-rimmed glasses on his head and wears a black leather jacket, a green bobble hat, a green scarf, green gloves, a burgundy school sweatshirt, a white long-sleeved polo shirt, grey trousers, grey socks and black school shoes then a green long sleeved polo shirt, blue jeans, grey computer socks and red trainers, he wears a black bowler hat on his head) (8 years 3 weeks)
The sentences or words in red and in brackets are stage directions and how the people talk.

Narrator: It is 3:15pm on Friday January 29th, 2016, and five children 11-year-old Taylor Perry his 10-year-old sister Flora, 9¼-year-old Matthew Noyes, 9¼-year-old Arimyriah "Ari" Adhikari and her 8-year-old brother Arigbeniri Adhikari have just arrived at the

Adhikaris' and Perry-Carters' shared flat – Riverside Court on Vincent Close between the Hayes and Bromley Common districts of the London Borough of Bromley in South-East Outer London.
(Mum comes downstairs from Flat 2 to escort the Adhikari and Perry children to the first floor)
Mum (straightening her hair): Good afternoon children, and a very good afternoon to you Matthew, how are you this afternoon?
Matthew: I'm fine Mrs Adhikari. (he climbs back into the minibus to go to his house on Walpole Road in Bromley Common)
Flora (adjusting her glasses): Goodbye Matthew, Mandy and Derek.
Derek (driving away from the flat): Goodbye Flora, goodbye everyone, see you on Monday!
Mum: Let's go to Flat 2, so we can greet Miss Rochelle, eat some lunch and change for church. Och, but not before we go to New Addington as I have to check something there. (she and the children go upstairs to Flat 2, there, they see Rochelle who is watching Sky Atlantic SD on Sky Channel 108)
Narrator: When Mum and the children go upstairs to Flat 2, things are about to take a little turn. Arimyriah's report for the day is anything but excellent and she deceives her mother.
The Perry siblings (greeting politely): Good afternoon, Mummy.
The Adhikari siblings (greeting politely): Good afternoon, Miss Rochelle.
Miss Rochelle (pauses the broadcast): Hello children, how are you and how was school today? (she plays the broadcast)
Taylor (flustered): Ari was misbehaving from circle time to ICT.
Flora (flustered): She asked to go to toilet, but she was just mucking about in the SOU corridor, then she went to toilet and did not wash her hands then in ICT, she was messing about and fiddling with the mouse when Mrs Rona was trying to sign her into RM EasiMaths and Mrs Spears was forced to make her do another session and Ari was not afraid to argue with her. But we had a good day at school today.
Mrs Rochelle: Not a good start to Ari's day but glad to hear about your good behaviour at school today. You can go to your room and get changed out of your school uniform.
(Taylor and Flora go to the children's bedroom to change out of their school uniforms. The former changes into a dark blue long sleeved shirt, blue jeans, light blue socks and the latter changes into an orange long sleeved shirt, blue dungarees with trousers under)
Mum (sits on a leather chair at the dining table): Arigbeniri, can I have your contact book please?
(Arigbeniri without hesitation gets his blue contact book from his burgundy book bag, Mum reads his report and beams)
Mum (beaming): Arigbeniri has been good as gold today, albeit being unsettled often, he even helped tidy up the pencils, good weekend. Signed, Jaz Berry. Well done, Arigbeniri. High-five! (Arigbeniri and Mum share a high-five)
Arigbeniri (proud of himself): Thank you Mummy! (he goes to the children's bedroom to change out of his school uniform and changes into a green long sleeved polo shirt, blue jeans, grey computer socks)
(Arimyriah tries to slink out of the sitting room, unfortunately it doesn't go unnoticed by Mum)
Mum (sternly): Arimyriah, where's your contact book please?
Arimyriah (dishonestly): I might have left it at school.
(Flora goes to the children's room and takes Arimyriah's contact book out of her book bag)
Flora (giving Mum the contact book): It's okay Mrs Adhikari, I just found it in a section of her book bag.
(Mum reads Arimyriah's report and frowns hardly)

Mum (frowning): Dear Mrs Adhikari, I am sorry to say that Arimyriah has teased some of the children today, good weekend. Please can you have a parents evening on Tuesday at 16:20 to discuss Arimyriah's escalating sour behaviour and the impact on other children? Signed, Susan Spears. Oh! So you were teasing some of the children Arimyriah, and Mrs Spears is forced to book an urgent parents evening on Tuesday to stop your constant teasing. You teased some of the children and lied to me.
Taylor (speaking up confidently): Mrs Spears's report is rather misleading. Ari asked to go to toilet, but she was just mucking about in the SOU corridor, then she went to toilet and did not wash her hands then in ICT, she was messing about and fiddling with the mouse when Mrs Rona was trying to sign her into RM EasiMaths and Mrs Spears was forced to make her do another session and Ari had the audacity argue with her. I don't know why Mrs Spears wrote that she was teasing when she was not teasing at all.
Mum (closing Arimyriah's contact book and putting it back in her bag): Neither do I. Arimyriah, go and change please while I plan something with Miss Rochelle before making egg fried rice for lunch.
Narrator: In her room, Arimyriah changes and uses a plugged straightener on her brunette doll's hair. You think it would work? Big mistake!
(Arimyriah goes to the children's bedroom to change out of her school uniform and changes into a light pink long sleeved shirt with a rabbit on it, blue jeans and pink socks, then she gets her brunette dolls and gets the straightener from the adults' room, plugs it in and starts to use it on the doll's dark brown hair, only to make it hard while in the sitting room, Rochelle and Mum talk about a bus ride to New Addington and the church in Croydon)
Narrator: Meanwhile, in the sitting room, the Indian and New Zealander mothers are planning a trip around the London Borough of Croydon in South Outer London.
Rochelle: Where would you like to go Mrs Adhikari?
Mum (writes in Indian cursive writing): Mrs Perry, I would like to go from here to New Addington on Bus 314 then when we have finished from New Addington, I would like to take either Bus 64 to 466 to Croydon Town Centre then walk to 47 Tamworth Road where the church is. Now, let me make egg fried rice with vindaloo for lunch. (she goes to the kitchen to dish up the children's lunch)
Taylor (sniffing): I can smell something burning. Mummy, can you check what it is?
Rochelle (standing up): I'm on the way to check. (she goes to the children's room to see Arimyriah with a straightener) WHAT THE HELL ARI?! You have used the straightener on the doll, and you have even plugged it and damaged the hair of your beautiful dolly you got in October! (she unplugs the straightener and returns it to the adults' room then goes back to the sitting room)
Taylor (sitting on the brown couch): What can we watch on TV this afternoon? (he picks up the black Sky+HD remote and muses) Let's watch Cartoonito on Sky Channel 619 as the rebooted Bob the Builder is airing on that channel. (he changes the channel from Sky Atlantic SD to Cartoonito, then Flora and Arimyriah sit on the couch too and Arigbeniri sits on the brown armchair, and they watch some Cartoonito until Mum calls them to collect their lunches)
Mum (from the kitchen): Children come and collect your food, it's egg fried rice with vindaloo and butter chicken.
Narrator: After the Indian mother's call, the children go to the small and uncomfortable kitchen to collect their platefuls of egg fried rice with vindaloo curry, but not before Arimyriah pauses the TV. Taylor's plate is light blue, Flora's plate is orange, Arimyriah's plate is pink and Arigbeniri's plate is green. They collect their food and sit at the dining table to start munching. Rochelle and Mum have a plan for them which especially excites Arimyriah, because she loves Greater London's TFL buses.
Rochelle (putting water on the dining table): Just wanted to let you know, before we go to church, because Ari and Arigbeniri, your mother has something to do in New

Addington, we will be going to a shop there, and because your father is currently working at the church, we will be taking a bus there, as well as to the church in Croydon.
Mum (straightening her braids): We will take the 314 from here to New Addington and then we will go to the shop, after checking the shop, we will either take the 64 or 466 to Croydon Town Centre and walk to the church.
(The children eat up their lunches then Taylor collects the things they used and washes them diligently)
Flora (going to the children's room): Come on everyone, let's get ready to go around the London Borough of Croydon. (The children go to their room and don some coats and shoes, Taylor wears a navy-blue waterproof coat, a blue bobble hat, a blue scarf, blue gloves and blue trainers, Flora wears a mustard winter coat, an orange bobble hat, an orange scarf, orange gloves and silver loafers, Arimyriah wears a brown winter coat, a pink bobble hat, a pink scarf, pink gloves and pink trainers and Arigbeniri wears a black leather jacket, a green bobble hat, a green scarf, green gloves and red trainers then they come out and wait for their mothers)
Narrator: The mothers also bundle up. Mum wears a wine winter coat, a plum bobble hat, a plum scarf, plum mittens and black flat shoes and Rochelle dons a purple winter coat, a purple bobble hat, a purple scarf, purple gloves and pink loafers then the sextet get ready to go, but not before Arigbeniri decides to deliberately smash a jar full of clear honey.
Rochelle: We're on our way to Croydon, and we might get there hassle free.
Mum: Nothing can go wrong.
Rochelle: Yup, everything is so peaceful.
Narrator: Not quite, the peace is marred by an audible smash of a jar in the kitchen.
Arimyriah (scared): Oh dear! What was that?
Flora (straightening her hairband): Tell me your brother hasn't broken something on purpose.
Narrator: The mothers go to the kitchen to investigate, it's Arigbeniri, he has deliberately broken a honey pot and honey is all over the floor.
Rochelle (shocked): Oh dear!
Mum (getting a mop): Arigbeniri, that was the naughtiest thing that you have ever done, now I need to clean this all up!
Narrator: Mum has to clean up the kitchen floor. The good news is that she is doing a very good job, the bad news is that it is taking longer than expected.
Taylor (entering the kitchen via the sitting room): Mrs Adhikari, is it too late to go to New Addington on the bus? Because Ari would be let down if it is because she really loves TFL buses.
Mum (mopping the floor): Not quite Taylor, I just have to finish mopping the floor… AND THEN WE ARE OFF! (Taylor leaves and Mum finishes off the mopping of her son's deliberate mess)
Narrator: After Mum finishes mopping the floor, she uses the toilet then the sextet leaves their flat for New Addington, at the last minute, they retrace their steps and go back home much to the ire of Arimyriah, especially because she loves TFL buses a lot.
(When the sextet retraces their steps, Mum speaks to Dad on the phone to take them to New Addington)
Arimyriah (tapping Mum): Why are we turning back? You promised a bus ride to New Addington and Croydon.
Mum: Your brother has deliberately broken a honey pot, when I finished cleaning the floor, on our way to the bus stop, I realised that there wouldn't be enough time to go to New Addington and Croydon on the bus, which I know is disappointing to you but there was an unforeseen circumstance.

Narrator: When the sextet arrives back to their flat, Mum opens the door, and they go back to Flat 2 upstairs. The sextet leaves their coats and shoes on as Dad is coming to take them to New Addington himself, not to mention the church in Croydon.
Arimyriah (upset): I am very disappointed.
Flora (cuddling the Indian girl): I know Ari, I know.
Rochelle (disappointed): We're all disappointed girls.
Narrator: Before long, Dad arrives in the Perry-Carters' courtesy car, a seven-seater silver Merecedes-Benz A-Class 2011. He beeps the horn to alert that he has arrived.
Arigbeniri (looking out the window): Daddy's here!
Mum (going to the door to the flat): Let's go to the car. (she alights from Flat 2 and everybody else follows on)
Dad (leaving the driver's seat): Hello Mrs Perry, you take the wheel. (he goes to the passenger seat and Rochelle sits behind the wheel)
Narrator: The sextet goes to the car, Taylor and Arigbeniri sit at the two back seats, Mum sits in the middle row on the left, Flora sits in the centre seat and Arimyriah sits on the right.
Dad (brushing his head): Taryn, I hear that you want to go to New Addington before going to church. And how were Arigbeniri and Arimyriah at school today?
Mum: Yes Isayu, I want to go to New Addington Isayu. Also the former was well behaved at school, but the latter was teasing some of the children.
Dad (flustered): I have told her several times. Arimyriah, why were you teasing some of the children? I have told you several times.
Taylor: Mr Adhikari, Ari wasn't really teasing children. In fact, she wasn't teasing at all, she was merely messing about this morning at school, that's all.
Dad: Fair enough Taylor.
Rochelle (driving): Here we are, New Addington, Mrs Adhikari, you want to check a shop there!
Narrator: Mum undoes her seatbelt and heads to a shop to check something, before long, she is back and the septet heads to the church in East Croydon.
Flora: What will we be doing at church tonight, Mrs Adhikari?
Mum: Today we will be watching a film, the title (i.e. War Room) may be misleading but it tells us the importance of prayer.
The Perry siblings: OOH!
Rochelle (driving): Everybody, on arrival at the church, you are going to greet the Ketakis before greeting your stepfather and settling down to watch a movie with a lesson, no opting out.
Narrator: When the septet arrives at the church, Rochelle engages the handbrake and the septet alight from the car and go into the building of the church. There they un-don their coats and see Pastor Azim, his wife Deaconess Tazim and their handsome sons Niya and Anukampa. The latter is severely autistic.
The Adhikari and Perry children: Good evening Ketakis.
Pastor Azim: Good evening my dear Indians and New Zealanders.
Deaconess Tazim: Are you here to watch the movie?
Niya: The movie will teach us a lot about why we need to pray.
Anukampa (signs and makes soft sounds): You will learn a lot from it.
Narrator: After greeting the Ketakis, the Adhikari and Perry children greet Mr Robert Carter, Taylor and Flora's stepfather and 3R's teacher at Ramsden Hillview Primary School.
Flora (kneeling down): Good evening stepdaddy.
Mr Carter: Good evening, Taylor and Flora.
Arimyriah (screaming): MR CARTER!
Arigbeniri (screaming): SIR!
Mr Carter (high-fiving the Indian siblings): Good evening, Ari and Arigbeniri, are you ready to watch War Room?

Arigbeniri: YES SIR! (the children sit down on black chairs)
Narrator: It is 7pm on the dot and Dad and Pastor Azim are trying to play the DVD on Dad's acer laptop, to no avail as it is the wrong region. So Mr Carter saves the night by getting the Bush DVD player from upstairs and plugging it in.
Mr Carter: This will save the night. (he puts the DVD inside and it plays)
Pastor Azim: Robert you rock! (the Indian and British men high-five each other)
Dad: Something is missing though, the remote. Mrs Perry, please may you go upstairs and get the remote for the Bush DVD player?
(Rochelle goes to the first floor hall to retrieve the Bush DVD remote and gives it to Dad, Dad plays the movie with a click of a button)
Mr Carter (he gets a microphone with a black cover and switches it on): Good evening, everybody, this is Mr Robert Carter Jr. speaking, instead of having our usual hour of emphasis night, we will be watching a movie about the importance of prayer, I hope you will learn a lot from it. And nobody, I repeat nobody is to opt out because it is mandatory. (he switches off the microphone and puts it away)
Narrator: Everybody is interested in watching the movie. Well, almost, Arimyriah wants to do anything but watch the movie, she goes on her father's laptop and plays some juvenile games and watches juvenile videos on it which angers Mr Carter.
Mr Carter (asking politely): Ari, can you please come off the computer and join in with the film?
Arimyriah (rudely): No go away, I don't want to watch. (Mr Carter slinks away from Arimyriah who continues to play on the laptop throughout the entire movie instead of watching the film)
Narrator: When the film is finished, the four Indian adults, Pastor Azim, Deaconess Tazim, Dad and Mum share their perspectives of the film and what they learned from it using a microphone with a red cover. Before Pastor Azim and Deaconess Tazim hand out white chocolate cookies to everybody, including a very hesitant Arimyriah.
Rochelle (eating her cookie): Ari, you're a very lucky Asian girl you know, you did not watch the film at all, but the Ketakis were generous enough to give you a cookie anyway.
Mr Carter (eating his cookie): I agree Rochelle, The Ketakis would've said no, but they didn't, they gave you a cookie albeit being disengaged in watching the film.
Narrator: When the dozen people have finished eating their cookies, they proceed home. The Ketakis go in Deaconess Tazim's grey 2005 Nissan Micra and head to their house in Mitcham, Merton, South-West Outer London, the males of the Adhikaris and Perry-Carter families go in Dad's 2011 red Toyota Aygo and the females of the household go into the Mercedes-Benz and they head to their flat between Hayes and Bromley Common. In the Mercedes-Benz, Rochelle tells Mum about how her car will be fixed the following day, as it ran out of petrol in Croydon Town Centre and broke down the week prior. When the octet in separate cars arrive at the flat, they alight and go to Flat 2 on the first floor. There, the four children get ready for bed by changing into their pyjamas, taking hot drinks, brushing their teeth and going to their bedroom. Mum reads them a story called "The broken roof" before saying a prayer, then the children go to sleep.

THE END